

**Town of Leicester Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Stephan Parretti, Chair, James Cooper, John Marc-Aurele, Dawn Marttila,
MEMBERS ABSENT: JoAnn Schold

STAFF PRESENT: Michelle Buck, Town Planner and Maureen Schur, Department Assistant

MEETING TIME: 6:30 PM

AGENDA:

1. **Certificate of Compliance-None**
2. **Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA)**
 - a. 184 River St. Chad Arcouette (RDA#2019-07) removal of 5 trees, stump grinding/removal, build stone wall around septic
 - b. 52 Lake Sargent Dr., David Balcom (RDA#2019-06) removal of 3 hazardous trees within 100' of shoreline
3. **Notice of Intent (NOI)-None**
Approval of Minutes
 - a) December 10, 2019
4. **Board Discussion/Miscellaneous**
 - a) 15 Fairview Drive Status update John Krol (DEP# 197-451)
 - b) Miscellaneous Project Updates/Site Inspection Updates
 - c) Correspondence/Other New Business
 - d) Mulberry Solar
 - e) Ratification of Beaver Permit near Washburn St.

Mr. Parretti called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

184 River St. Chad Arcouette (RDA#2019-07)

Mr. Parretti read the public hearing notice. Several commission members did a site walk of Mr. Arcouette's property and instructed him to file an RDA. Ms. Buck informed the Commission that there was an abutter who contacted the office and stated the trees along River St. had been cleared and trees on her property had also been cleared. When asked, Mr. Arcouette informed the Commission he had not cut any trees since before they did the site walk. Mr. Arcouette explained if he could cut the tree stumps low enough, he would just cover them with dirt and plant grass and not remove them at all.

MOTION: Mr. Marc-Aurele moved to approve the RDA with a negative 3 determination as the work is in the buffer zone but will not impact the buffer zone.

SECOND: Ms. Marttila

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: All in favor

52 Lake Sargent Dr. David Balcom (RDA2019-06)

The applicant was not present at the meeting. There was a brief discussion amongst the commission member regarding their site walk of this property.

MOTION: Mr. Marc-Aurele moved to approve the RDA with a negative 3 determination as the proposed work is within the resource area but will not impact the resource area.

SECOND: Mr. Cooper

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: All in favor

15 Fairview Drive Status update John Krol (DEP# 197-451)

Attorney Donald O'Neill, representing Mr. Krol, stated they do not believe Mr. Krol is causing the drainage issues on the neighbor's property. Commission members conducted a site walk and told Mr. Krol to file an RDA to complete the work that needs to be done. Attorney O'Neill proposed enhancing the swale between the properties so it can carry the water away from the house and toward the lake. The swale will be grass and the haybales and silt fence are still in place and will remain in place until the work is complete.

Mulberry Solar III

Project manager, Ashlesh Kurahatti, Senior project manager Patreek Tare, and engineer Devin Howe from Beals and Associates presented information regarding the clearing of the land on the site. Mr. Howe explained there is approximately 94,000 sq.ft. of trees that have been cut down and all the low vegetation has been removed within the buffer zone beyond what was permitted. Also, 800 ft or approximately 5,400 sq ft. of trees has been removed in the wetland buffer zone beyond what was permitted. Mr. Howe explained the wrong CAD file had been given to the applicant by the previous engineering firm. Mr. Howe stated the erosion controls are incorrectly placed on the site. One of the Commission members walked the site and could not discern the location of the property line. The Commission requested a survey be done to determine property lines and if the 25 foot no disturb zone has been encroached upon. The applicant was also told the tracking pads need to be maintained. Someone needs to clean up the road at the end of each work day.

Ms. Buck informed the commission she has reached out to the city of Worcester to inform them of the situation and is waiting to hear from them. The Commission will do a site visit after the applicant meets with the Planning Board on January 22, 2020. Mr. Howe stated the work currently being done on site is related to stormwater management and that no solar panels are being installed currently. He also stated they will continue to work to ensure the site is stable. A question regarding the size of the mounds of dirt was raised by a member of the public and it was explained the size of the mounds of dirt are related to the grading of the site and have nothing to do with the stabilization of the site. The applicant was told to control the potential erosion of those mounds of dirt. The applicant was told to attend the next Conservation Commission meeting scheduled for February 11, 2020 at 6:30pm.

The commission requested Mr. Daige be informed of the Planning Board meeting and the next Conservation Commission meeting regarding Mulberry Solar III

Correspondence/Other New Business

The commission briefly reviewed a Special Permit submitted to the Planning Board by Hillcrest Water District as it pertains to the construction of a new water tower located on Lehigh Rd.

Ratification of Beaver Permit near Washburn St.

MOTION: Mr. Cooper moved to ratify the beaver permit near Washburn St.

SECOND: Ms. Marttila

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: All in favor

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. Mark-Aurele moved to approve the minutes of December 10, 2019

SECOND: Mr. Cooper

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: All in favor

Miscellaneous Project updates/Site inspections Updates

None

There was a brief discussion regarding the Special Permit for Smuggler's Cove that was approved by the Planning Board.

MOTION: Mr. Marc-Aurele moved to adjourn meeting

SECOND: Mr. Cooper

VOTE: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

Respectfully submitted:

Maureen Schur, Department Assistant

Documents included in meeting packet:

- Agenda
- Public hearing notice for 184 River St.
- RDA application for 184 River St.
- Public hearing notice for 52 Lake Sargent Dr.
- Application for 52 Lake Sargent Dr.
- Minutes from December 10, 2019
- Emergency certification regarding beaver removal near Washburn St.

Documents submitted at meeting:

- Plan submitted by Mr. Arcouette 184 River St.